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# Food and Nutrition

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## FOOD PROGRAMS GIVE QUICK, MASSIVE AID TO VICTIMS OF CENTURY'S WORST FLOODS

FOOD PROGRAMS GAVE quick and massive aid to flood victims in widespread areas of the country, during the worst floods of the century.

In doing so, they demonstrated again that the Federal-State-local food and food stamp delivery system is an on-going activity that pays big bonuses at the times when natural disasters strike.

- Flash floods roared down out of South Dakota's Black Hills the night of June 9-10, driving residents of Rapid City and nearby towns from their homes to high ground. USDA-donated foods on hand in school lunchrooms were immediately pressed into service for emergency feeding, while State and Federal commodity specialists expedited shipments of additional supplies from nearby Indian reservations, from the Sioux Falls State Warehouse, and from adjoining States.

When stores were determined to have ample food supplies, the emergency provisions of the food stamp program were put into effect, and certification and issuance to flood victims began immediately. Approximately \$310,030 worth of stamps were issued to 11,365 persons in 3,620 households.

The school lunch program also demonstrated its disaster capabilities, when foods on hand in Indiana and Nebraska school systems were rushed to Rapid City, prepared into hot meals at a central school kitchen, and "satellited" out to emergency feeding shelters at other schools.

- Tropical storm Agnes struck Florida's Panhandle, then spawned torrential rains June 23 as she moved across Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York -- flash-flooding tens of thousands from their homes and into emergency shelters.

Again, donated-food supplies on hand in schools and institutions were immediately put into use. So staggering were the feeding needs that USDA foods were quickly airlifted into Pennsylvania and New York from Massachusetts and the District of Columbia; truck convoys ran additional supplies from New Jersey, Delaware and Maine, and as far away as Georgia and Missouri; and "rolling shipments" were rerouted from other parts of the country. More than 2,600,000 pounds of food have been shipped or ordered into the Pennsylvania and New York flood areas.

Food stamps also went on emergency status, with disaster issuance authorized in 106 counties and cities in Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, and Maryland. Banks and grocers stayed open over the 4th of July weekend to serve flood victims. At press time figures were still incomplete but more than \$3,700,000 worth of food stamps had been issued to 250,000 persons in 68,000 households.

- Similarly, food programs assisted when June floods struck the Okanogan area in Washington State, the Andrus-Brannon Island in California's Sacramento River, and scattered areas in other parts of the country.



## **RUTGERS HOSTS SCHOOL FEEDING CONFERENCE**

A NATIONAL SCHOOL Feeding Conference, co-sponsored by FNS and Rutgers University, was held June 27-29 at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. Conferees included school lunch directors, food technologists, and food industry representatives.

The main focus of the program was on technological advances in child feeding. Among the topics discussed were: the nutrient approach to school lunch, "new foods," and nutritional labeling. The report from the Rutgers Study was also presented. This 2-year project studied the effectiveness of the School Lunch Program as a delivery system.

### **Northeast Continues to Push 'Outreach'**

IN A CONTINUING effort to expand child feeding programs to as many schools as possible, the Northeast Regional FNS office recently sponsored a full-day conference in Philadelphia for no-program Hebrew Day Schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The conference, attended by 28 persons representing 16 schools, is part of the series of "outreach" workshops being conducted to explain to no-program schools the benefits of the child nutrition programs.

The conference was hosted by Rabbi Aaron Popack, Executive Vice President of Beth David Schools of Philadelphia, who described his own "success story" using USDA school feeding programs and nonfood assistance.

Mrs. Carrie Lipsig, who oversees the National School Lunch Program for the Board of Jewish Education in New York City, told the group how she is able to use USDA-donated foods and meet religious and dietary regulations.

Regional officials anticipate that many

of the schools represented at the conference will make application to participate in at least one of the school feeding programs this fall.

The FNS Northeast Regional Office is also arranging a September "outreach" workshop for 39 school districts in Southwestern Pennsylvania, where there are 200 no-program schools.

## **FOOD STAMP CASE DISMISSED**

A U.S. DISTRICT Judge has dismissed a suit against USDA which challenged the adequacy of food stamp coupon allotments. On July 6 Judge John H. Pratt dismissed a case which was originally filed against USDA on December 23, 1971, by the State of Pennsylvania, New York City, the National Welfare Rights Organization and 12 food stamp recipients. The plaintiffs alleged that revised coupon allotments issued July 29, 1971, did not provide the recipient with a nutritionally adequate diet, as called for by the amended Food Stamp Act.

USDA revised the program on January 26 to insure that no food stamp household would receive less net program benefits than it would have received under the regulations in effect prior to July 29, 1971. The court ruled that this action made the issues raised by the plaintiffs moot.

Food stamp coupon allotments are based on USDA's economy food budget. The present allotment for a family of four is \$112 per month. The family pays from \$0 to \$88 for the allotment, depending on household income.

## **FOOD STAMPS BOOST LOCAL ECONOMIES**

A STUDY BY USDA's Economic Research Service shows that the food stamp program, in addition to helping low-income families improve their diets, provides significant benefits to local economies. For every dollar's worth of bonus food stamps issued in three rural counties,



\$1.20 to \$1.68 worth of additional business was generated in food retailing and other sectors of the local economy. Because of the increased economic activity in the three counties, 11 to 60 new jobs were potentially available.

The study, conducted in Haywood County, Tenn., Apponoose County, Iowa, and Chaves County, N. Mex., is one of several designed to provide a better basis for evaluating the food stamp program.

A copy of "Impact of the Food Stamp Program on Three Local Economies" (ERS-503) is available free on postcard request from the Division of Information, Office of Management Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

### Tuskegee Studies Food Programs

THE HUMAN RESOURCES Development Center at Tuskegee Institute is conducting a study in 2 counties in Alabama to measure the effectiveness of USDA's food assistance programs.

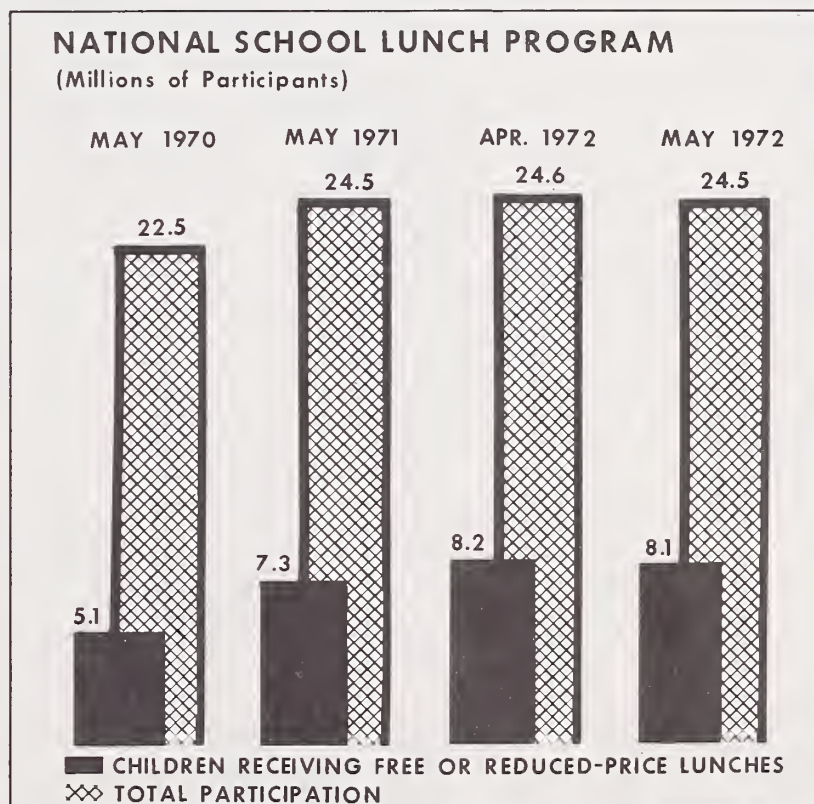
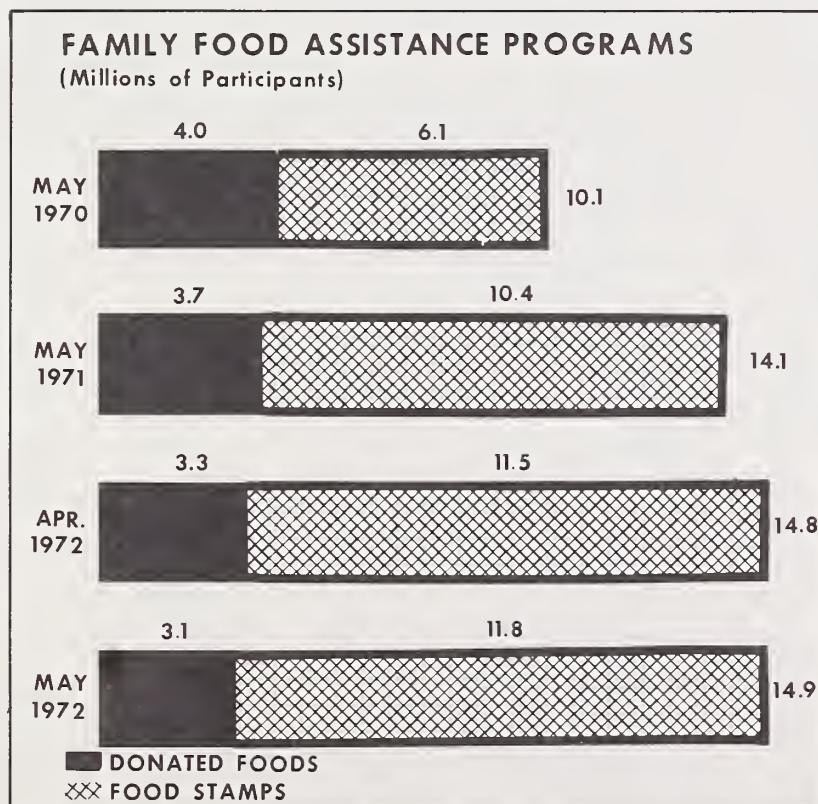
Research will be conducted in Marengo County, which operates the food distribution program, and Bullock County, which operates the food stamp program.

The objectives are: to find why eligible families are not participating in food programs and what can be done to reach them; to evaluate the dietary status of non-participating vs. participating households; and to make recommendations for outreach and nutrition education programs.

### NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS OF PROGRAMS COMPARED

THE UNIVERSITY OF California at Davis will study what happens to the nutrition levels and food consumption patterns of low-income households when they change from using donated foods to food stamps. Food assistance participants in Kern County, Calif., will be studied in July and August while the county is operating the food distribution program and again in the early part of 1973 after the county has switched to the food stamp program. Twenty-four hour food intake questionnaires will be used to determine food use and nutritional achievement levels.

Ethnic characteristics of Kern County will make it possible to draw equal samples of white, black and Chicano households to test the hypothesis that





different ethnic populations are served differently by the food assistance programs.

### **PROJECT FIND Seeks Out The Elderly**

PROJECT FIND IS under way -- an attempt to locate elderly persons who need food help. Through cooperative efforts of the White House Office of Aging, Social Security Administration, American National Red Cross, Office of Economic Opportunity, and USDA a message on food assistance programs will be enclosed with the 28 million Social Security checks mailed in August. Those interested and eligible will be invited to visit their local welfare office or to mail back a response card.

Red Cross workers will call on all those who return the cards, to provide them with more details on eligibility and participation.

### **From 'Cup-Can' To 'Airline' Lunches**

IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER almost a year of using the highly successful cup-can lunch program, Philadelphia parochial schools will be switching to a more sophisticated food service plan--preplated lunches. The cup-can program, which began as an 8-week test project in St. Anthony de Padua school, has been operating in 16 Diocesan schools since September 1971. (See FOOD AND NUTRITION magazine, August 1971.)

This past April a pilot test of the preplate system, which uses "airline" meals, was begun in two Diocesan schools. Convection ovens were purchased to heat the meals; the ovens from the cup-can program were used as holding ovens.

### **REVISION PROPOSED TO FOOD STAMP REGULATIONS**

AN AMENDMENT has been proposed to food stamp program regulations which would change the income calculations for

for food stamps.

The current method of calculating income requires that shelter costs be deducted after mandatory deductions, such as taxes, and before exclusion of any other allowable expenses. Housing costs in excess of 30 percent of income may be deducted.

The proposed revision allows the shelter deduction to be made after all other deductions. This change in the order of making deductions would reduce the calculated net income for some households with high medical costs, child care fees and similar expenses. The amount of money those households pay to receive their food coupons would be reduced.

Interested parties are invited during the next 30 days to comment on the proposed amendment. Comments should be sent to James H. Kocher, Director, Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, to be received by close of business Friday, August 18.

### **MORE POST OFFICES SELL FOOD STAMPS**

ON MAY 1, SIX post office outlets began food stamp issuance in the Anchorage, Alaska area, and three began in Alameda, Calif. This raised the number of post offices issuing in the Western Region to 172, with negotiations going on in a number of additional California counties.

Barnstable County, Mass., initiated post office issuance on May 1, the first project area in the Northeast to offer this service.

Richland County, S.C., began post office issuance on May 15, with Charleston County scheduled to begin on June 15. Muscogee and Daugherty Counties in Georgia also have plans to implement this service. (See related story in FOOD AND NUTRITION magazine, June 1972).